

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

1 14. (currently amended) A method for communicating
2 between a hearing device for listening to first audio signals
3 and an individual carrying said device, said method comprising
4 the steps of:

5 - applying to said an output converter at least one
6 second electrical signal representing at least one
7 second audio signal of predetermined duration for
8 notifying the user of a status of said hearing
9 device; and

10 - selecting the content of said second audio signal by
11 - said individual.

1 15. (canceled).

1 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14,
2 further comprising the step of storing said at least one
3 second audio signal on a user exchangeable storage element.

1 Claims 17-19 (canceled).

1 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 14,
2 further comprising the step of storing said at least one
3 second audio signal in a storage unit and operationally
4 connecting said storage unit and said hearing device by a
5 wireless link.

1 21. (previously amended) The method of claim 14, further
2 comprising the step of providing said electro/mechanical

3 output converter as a loudspeaker and wherein said generating
4 said at least one second audio signal is generated so that it
5 is audible by an individual remote from said hearing device.

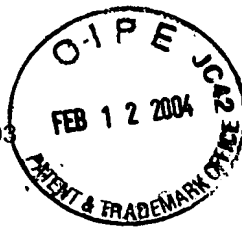
1 22. (previously amended) The method of claim 14, wherein
2 more than one second audio signal is provided and further
3 wherein said selecting a second audio signal to be activated
4 is provided in a menu-controlled manner.

1 23. (previously amended) The method of claim 22, wherein
2 the step of performing said selecting is done via a remote
3 communication unit for said hearing device.

1 24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23,
2 further comprising the step of establishing a wireless
3 communication between said communication unit and said hearing
4 device.

1 25. (previously amended) The method of claim 23, wherein
2 the step of performing said selecting is done in a speech
3 controlled manner.

1 26. (currently presented) A hearing device system with at
2 least one hearing device, said hearing device comprising:
3 a signal processing unit with an output being
4 operationally connected to an input of an
5 electrical/mechanical converter; and
6 a generator unit the output of which is also
7 operationally connected to said input of said
8 converter, said generator unit including a user
9 exchangeable storage with at least one audio signal,
10 the content thereof being user selectable audio
11 signal for signifying a status of the system.



1 27. (previously amended) A hearing device system
2 comprising:

3 at least one hearing device, said hearing device

4 including:

5 an electrical/mechanical converter; and

6 a signal processing unit with an output being

7 operationally connected to an input of said

8 electrical/mechanical converter; [[,]] and

9 a generator unit the output of which is operationally

10 connected to the input of said electrical/

11 mechanical converter, said generator unit including

12 a user writable read/write storage unit with signals

13 representing audio signals for storing user

14 selectable signals according to user defined audio

15 signal sequences of predetermined extent to be

16 output by said generator unit for notifying a user

17 of a status of the system.

1 Claims 28-31. (canceled).

1 32. (previously presented) The system of claim 27,
2 wherein a writing input of said read/write storage is
3 operationally connected or is operationally connectable to a
4 signal source of audio signals.

1 33. (previously presented) The system of claim 32,
2 wherein said signal source is an audio playback unit or is a
3 unit with internet connection.

1 34. (previously amended) The system of claim 27, further
2 comprising a display unit for at least one of a visual or
3 speech controlled menu, said display unit being operationally
4 connected or connectable to a signal generator generating

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5 control signals for said device to said generator unit.

1 35. (previously presented) The system of claim 34,
2 wherein said display unit is for speech control and has an
3 output which is operationally connected to said input of said
4 electrical/mechanical converter of said hearing device.

1 36 (currently amended): A method of acknowledging to an
2 individual carrying a hearing device, said hearing device
3 having:

4 an acoustical/electrical input converter unit having an
5 output;

6 a signal processing unit having an input and an output;
7 and

8 an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement
9 having an input, wherein

10 said output of said input converter is operationally
11 connected to said input of said signal processing
12 unit, the output thereof being operationally

13 connected to said input of said output converter
14 arrangement, said method comprising the steps of:

15 generating an acknowledgement control signal in said
16 hearing device whenever a predetermined status of

17 said hearing device is reached; and

18 initiating an acknowledgement audio signal according to

19 said acknowledgement control signal to be applied to

20 said input of said output converter, wherein

21 said acknowledgement audio signal is made selectable by

22 the individual.

1 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein said acknowledgement audio signal is stored on a user
3 exchangeable storage.

1 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 37,
2 wherein said user-exchangeable storage is applied to said
3 hearing device.

1 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 37,
2 wherein said user-exchangeable storage is a read-only storage.

1 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein said hearing device further has a storage unit for
3 storing said audio signal.

1 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 further comprising a storage unit for said audio signals
3 remote from said hearing device and establishing at least one
4 of a wireless or of a wired communication between said hearing
5 device and said storage unit.

1 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein more than one of said audio signals are provided and
3 wherein said user selectability comprises selecting which of
4 said audio signals is initiated by said acknowledgement
5 control signal.

1 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein said audio signal is applied to said output converter
3 of said hearing device so as to be audible even as said
4 hearing device is not applied to an individual.

1 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein pre-selection of said audio signal is performed in a
3 menu-controlled manner.

1 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,

2 further comprising the step of pre-selecting said audio signal
3 via a communication unit remote from said hearing device.

1 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 45,
2 wherein there is established a wireless communication between
3 said communication unit and said hearing device.

1 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 45,
2 wherein said pre-selection of said audio signal is performed
3 at said communication unit in a menu-controlled manner by
4 means of at least one of visual and speech menu indications.

1 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 47,
2 wherein said menu is communicated to said individual via said
3 hearing device as a menu indication by voice.

1 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,
2 wherein said pre-selection of said audio signal is performed
3 in a speech-controlled manner.

1 50 (previously presented): A system comprising at least
2 one hearing device, said hearing device including:
3 an electrical/mechanical input converter arrangement
4 having an output;
5 a signal processing unit having an input and an output;
6 an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement
7 having an input; and
8 a generator unit having:
9 an audio signal storage unit, the content thereof
10 being selectable by a user; and
11 an output operationally connected to said input of
12 said output converter arrangement;

13 wherein said output of said input converter arrangement
14 is operationally connected to said input of said
15 signal processing unit, and wherein
16 said output of said signal processing unit is
17 operationally connected to one of said input and
18 another input of said output converter arrangement,
19 and further wherein
20 said hearing device generates at least one
21 acknowledgement control signal when a predetermined
22 status of said hearing device is achieved, and still
23 further wherein
24 said generator unit applies said audio signal to said
25 output converter arrangement when initiated by said
26 acknowledgement control signal of said hearing
27 device.

1 51 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said
2 hearing device further comprising a manually operated
3 switching member, wherein said acknowledgement control signal
4 is initiated by said switching member.

1 52 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said
2 generator unit further including an addressing input for said
3 audio signal, said acknowledgement control signal addressing
4 via said addressing input said audio signal.

1 53 (previously presented): The system of claim 52,
2 further comprising a remote control unit for said hearing
3 device, wherein said acknowledgement control signal is
4 initiated by a control action for said hearing device by said
5 remote control unit.

1 54 (previously presented): The system of claim 53,
2 wherein said remote control unit is operationally connected to

3 said hearing device via at least one of a wired and of a
4 wireless communication link.

1 55 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,
2 wherein said generator is integrated in said hearing device.

1 56 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,
2 wherein said generator unit is remote from said hearing device
3 and there is provided a wired and/or wireless communication
4 link between said hearing device and said generator unit.

1 57 (previously presented): The system of claim 56,
2 wherein said generator unit is connectable to the internet.

1 58 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,
2 further comprising a display unit for displaying at least one
3 of a visually and of a speech controlled menu, said display
4 unit being operationally connected or connectable to said
5 generator unit and to said hearing device for establishing
6 which of more than one of said audio signals shall be
7 initiated by said acknowledgement control signal and/or which
8 of more than one acknowledgement control signals shall
9 initiate said audio signal.

1 59 (previously presented): The system of claim 58,
2 wherein said display unit has an output for audio menu
3 information signals, said output being operationally connected
4 to said output converter of said hearing device.